

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY:ARA:LA:MRSD:L:JMO'GRADY

APPROVED BY:ARA:LA:MRSD:L:JMO'GRADY

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P 212130Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

USCINCSO

XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM MEXICO DATED OCTOBER 21, 1975
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BEIRUT, BONN, BRUSSELS, CANBERRA,
COPENHAGEN, HELSINKI, LONDON, LAGOS, KUALA LUMPUR, MANILA,
MOSCOW, NEW DELHI, OSLO, OTTAWA, PARIS, PRAGUE, ROME, STOCKHOLM,
TEL AVIV, TOKYO, TUNIS, EC BRUSSELS, NATO, GENEVA IS REPEATED
TO YOU: QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 9240

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, MX

SUBJECT: ICFTU WORLD CONGRESS: QUESTION OF POSSIBLE U.S.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO DOMINATES CONGRESS DELIBERATIONS

REF: MEXICO 9225

DEPT PASS ALL LATIN AMERICAN POSTS

SUMMARY: THE OCTOBER 20 PLENARY SESSION OF THE ICFTU
WORLD CONGRESS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DEVOTED TO ROUTINE
EXAMINATION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT BUT FROM
THE OUTSET BECAME FORUM FOR EMOTIONAL AND SOMETIMES
AGITATED DISCUSSION OF THE ILO CRISIS AND THE RUMORED USG
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NOTIFICATION TO WITHDRAW. CYRIL PLANT(BRITISH TUC)

HEADED A LONG LIST OF SPEAKERS EXPRESSING ALARM OVER POSSIBLE US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO AND ANGRILY DENOUNCING GEORGE MEANY AS THE ARCHITECT OF THIS "HORRIBLY TRAGIC" DEVELOPMENT. PLANT, WHO SAID THAT A USG LETTER OF NOTIFICATION WAS SIGNED BY PRESIDENT FORD TWO DAYS AGO, URGED THE ICFTU CONGRESS TO INFORM PRESIDENT FORD OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS ACTION AND SUGGESTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AT THE UN, "STAYING IN TO FIGHT, TO REBUT THE LIES AND COMMUNIST HYPROCRISY." INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING MEANY'S ISOLATIONIST COURSE. END SUMMARY.

1. A SCATHING ATTACK ON AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY BY BRITAIN'S CYRIL PLANT TRANSFORMED WHAT WAS EXPECTED TO BE AN UNEVENTFUL SECOND DAY OF THE ICFTU WORLD CONGRESS INTO A DRAMATIC AFFAIR IN WHICH SPEAKER AFTER SPEAKER CONDEMNED A U.S. GOVERNMENT DECISION TO NOTIFY THE ILO OF ITS INTENTION TO WITHDRAW. PLANT STATING THAT PRESIDENT FORD SIGNED A LETTER OF NOTIFICATION TO THE ILO TWO DAYS AGO, ANGRILY ACCUSED GEORGE MEANY OF FORCING HIS "PHILOSOPHY OF OPTING-OUT" ON PRESIDENT FORD. HE SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CAPITULATED TO MEANY BECAUSE "MEANY IS RIDING HIGH IN THE AFTERMATH OF HELSINKI AND IS MOVING WITH THE CURRENT OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST GRAIN DEALS WITH THE SOVIETS." HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION IS SILENT BECAUSE IT NEEDS MEANY'S SUPPORT FOR ITS OIL-FOR-GRAIN ARRANGEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS.

2. PLANT TOLD THE DELEGATES THAT THE AMERICANS ARE ALREADY 37 MILLION DOLLARS IN ARREARS IN PAYMENTS TO THE ILO AND THAT GERMANY AND JAPAN HAVE NOT PAID THEIR 1975 QUOTAS. AS A RESULT HE SAID THE GOVERNING BOARD MUST NOW CONSIDER DISMISSING STAFF AND THE ABILITY OF THE ILO TO FUNCTION IS BEING JEOPARDIZED.

3. REFLECTING TO MEANY'S REASONS FOR "THROWING IN THE SPONGE" I.E. POLITICALIZATION OF THE ILO, RECOGNITION OF THE PLO AND THE RULING OF THE ILY BY A NEW MAJORITY, PLANT STATED THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF US AMBASSADOR TO THE UN MOYNIHAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RATHER THAN THE ISOLATIONIST COURSE ESPOUSED BY MEANY. HE ADDED THAT MOYNIHAN LIKE MEANY WAS ALSO EXASPERATED AND DISGUSTED BUT DECIDED THAT THE ONLY COURSE WAS TO STAY IN AND FIGHT, TO REBUT THE LIES AND COMMUNIST HYPROCRISY.

4. PLANT WARNED THAT THE US MUST BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT BY ABANDONING THE ILO, A VACUUM WILL RESULT AND THE SOVIETS WILL RUSH TO FILL THAT VACUUM. HE ALSO

WARNED OF THE DANGER THAT OTHER NATIONS MAY FOLLOW THE
US LEAD AND LEAVE THE ILO. STATING THAT THE WORKERS
IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL SUFFER THE MOST
FROM THE ILO'S DECLINE, PLANT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE
"ANGRY MEN IN THE AFL-CIO WILL REFLECT ON WHAT THEY ARE
FORCING THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO DO BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE."
HE CALLED UPON THE ICFTU CONGRESS TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT
AND THE AFL-CIO ABOUT THE "HORRIBLE TRAGEDY THEY ARE
FORMULATING."

5. COMMENT: PLANT'S REMARKS SET OFF A CHAIN REACTION OF
SIMILAR STATEMENTS AT TODAY'S SESSION AND WE EXPECT MORE
OF THE SAME TOMORROW. THE MOOD ON THE CONGRESS FLOOR
AND IN THE CORRIDORS IS A MIXTURE OF ANGER, BITTERNESS
AND DISAPPOINTMENT. CONCERN THAT THE AMERICANS ARE
ABANDONING THE ILO TO THE COMMUNISTS SEEMS TO BE PREVALENT
AMONG DELEGATES.
BRANDIN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, MEETING REPORTS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE250175
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA:LA:MRSD:L:JMO'GRADY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750366-0490
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751036/aaaabfxx.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MEXICO 9225
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICFTU WORLD CONGRESS: QUESTION OF POSSIBLE U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO DOMINATES CONGRESS DELIBERATIONS
TAGS: ELAB, OCON, MX, US, ICFTU, ILO
To: ARA POSTS MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006